

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated December 29, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-23 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Gravini for taking the time to speak with the Applicant's representative on February 8, 2005. During the telephonic Examiner Interview, the outstanding Office Action was discussed.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,141,887 to *Chen et al.* (hereinafter "Chen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,385,452 to *Deschaaf et al.* (hereinafter "Deschaaf"). In addition, the Office Action rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chen* in view of *Deschaaf* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,986 to *Jelinek et al.* (hereinafter "Jelinek"). The Office Action also rejected claims 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chen* in view of *Deschaaf* and further in view of *Jelinek*. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

During the telephonic Examiner Interview, the Examiner and the Applicant's representative discussed the above-noted amendments to claims 1 and 13. More specifically, the Examiner indicated that the claims, as amended, recited subject matter patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicants believe the application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, the Examiner may call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 10/622,453
Amendment dated February 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated December 29, 2004

Docket No.: 9988.039.00-US

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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